



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/697,775

10/30/2003

Giuseppe Principe

163-514

8880

7590

03/30/2004

James V. Costigan, Esq.
Hedman & Costigan, P.C.
Suite 2003
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-2646

EXAMINER

CULLER, JILL E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/697,775 | Applicant(s) PRINCIPE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Jill E. Culler | Art Unit 2854 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 3, line 13, the specification refers to the contents of Claim 1. This is inappropriate as the content of the claim may change during prosecution.

On pages 3-4, the drawing references are not capitalized. Although this is not required, it is common to use "Figure 1" instead of "figure 1".

On page 5, line 26 and page 6, lines 1-2, several reference numerals are enclosed in parentheses. Although this is not an error, it differentiates these from the other reference numerals in the specification.

On page 7, line 22, the phrase "can be whatever" is awkward and non-descriptive.

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2-7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 2, on line 8, it appears that the word "transversal" should be "transverse" instead.

In claim 3, on lines 5-6, there is no antecedent basis for the claim limitation "two longitudinal guides".

In claim 5, on line 5, the phrase "of the sheet" does not appear to be relevant to the surrounding claim language.

In claim 6, on line 6, there is no antecedent basis for the claim limitation "one of the supports". It appears that applicant may have intended this claim to be dependent from claim 5, rather than claim 1.

In claim 7, on line 4, the phrase "of the sheet" does not appear to be relevant to the surrounding claim language.

Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,378,862 to Rebeaud.

With respect to claim 1, Rebeaud teaches a supply system for a printing machine comprising a supply table, 14, mobile on longitudinal guides, 46, 51, 61, in a longitudinal advancing direction of a sheet, 5, which is able to be registered longitudinally through longitudinal registering means, 50, 60, said supply system being characterized in that it comprises transversal registering means, 56, 66, which comprise locking means 16, 20, 22, suitable for locking the sheet, 5, on the supply table, 14, for a predetermined time, and an actuator, 40, to move the supply table, 14, in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction such as to allow the registering of the transversal position of the

sheet, 5, without misaligning it with respect to the longitudinal direction. See column 5, line 41 - column 6, line 39.

With respect to claim 2, Rebeaud teaches the transversal registering means comprise two transversal guides, 56, 66, which couple with each other and are able to slide along the longitudinal guides, 51, 61, and that the supply table, 14, is coupled with the transversal guides, 56, 66, and is able to slide in a direction transverse to the advancing direction of the sheet. See column 3, line 53-64.

With respect to claim 3, Rebeaud teaches that the transversal registering means comprise two support shoulders, 52, 62, which couple with each other and are able to slide with respect to the two longitudinal guides, 51, 61, and in which the two transversal guides, 56, 66, are respectively housed. See column 5, line 65 - column 6, line 8.

With respect to claim 4, Rebeaud teaches that the transversal registering means comprise an optical sensor, 43, 53, 63. See column 7, lines 13-21.

With respect to claim 7, Rebeaud teaches the longitudinal registering means comprise retractable stop elements, 22, capable of cooperating with the optical sensor to register the longitudinal position of the sheet. See column 6, lines 32-50.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rebeaud in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,477,218 to Bean.

Rebeaud teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-4 and 7. Rebeaud also teaches that the transversal registering means comprise a support shaft, 20, suitable for supporting the locking means, 22, and fixed to the supply table, 14, which carries a plurality of supports, 22, aligned along it.

Rebeaud does not teach that these supports are fixed to the shaft respectively through attachment screws, or that the locking means comprise a plurality of pressure elements which can be activated through pressurized air, each respectively housed in a support.

Bean teaches a paper processing system having a support shaft, 66, to support locking means, 62, which comprise a plurality of pressure elements, activated through pressurized air, each respectively housed in a support, 64, by an attachment screw. See column 6, lines 13-29.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rebeaud to have the locking means of Bean in order to hold the sheet down with independently attached and adjustable elements rather than a toothed comb where the elements are fixed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 2,922,646 to Buttner, U.S. Patent No. 4,068,837

Art Unit: 2854

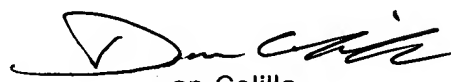
to Lamos, U.S. Patent No. 5,125,639 to Henn, U.S. Patent No. 5,480,133 to Motev et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,558,321 to Greive et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,244,592 to Baba et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,481,708 to Rebeaud each teach a sheet supply device having obvious similarities to the claimed subject matter.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jec


Jan Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854